



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 11, 2005  
Week Ending: July 10, 2005  
CWP WA-CW2805

## Weather Delayed Winter Wheat and Hay Harvests Hay Cutting Was Rained On

### Field Crop

Rains over the weekend brought cool, damp weather to many areas, delaying winter wheat and hay harvests. Harvest of the 2005 winter wheat began in Whitman County. More winter wheat operations throughout the state will begin to harvest as weather permits. Christmas tree growers sprayed aphid infestations in Noble fir.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 22% poor, 30% fair, 39% good, and 2% excellent. Livestock producers continued to make haylage as the weather did not permit making conventional square bale hay. Cut hay was rained on in many areas which caused bleaching and nutrient loss. However, pastures benefitted from the rains over the weekend. Pacific County shellfish growers completed seed transplant operations and finished early season harvests.

### Fruits and Vegetables

The persistent rainfall combined with cool temperatures was ideal for sweet corn growth in many areas. Early apricot picking was underway. Cherry, raspberry, and blueberry harvest continued with good yields. Apple fruit thinning continued.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	6.4

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	24	69	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	38	50	0
Subsoil	14	46	40	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	46	46	0
Irrigation Water	7	11	82	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	4	96	0
Hay & Roughage	0	5	90	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	99	97	99	97
Spring Wheat Harvested	0	0	0	0
Winter Wheat Headed	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Harvested	2	0	3	2
Barley Headed	98	97	99	98
Potatoes Harvested	3	2	8	6
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	75	50	76	70
Dry Peas Harvested	17	15	3	1
Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	99	99	98	99
Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	65	44	63	65
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	1	0	1	1

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	6	21	55	16
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	12	63	24
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	7	37	50	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	4	4	21	66	5
Barley Dryland	6	17	33	40	4
Barley Irrigated	3	5	9	77	6
Potatoes	0	3	7	65	25
Corn	0	1	13	80	6
Dry Edible Beans	1	3	29	66	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

- Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wakiakum:** High moisture conditions created problems with berry crops. The crops were not making grade due to mold and fungus. Corn silage and barley crops were planted late due to the continued rainfall.

**Grays Harbor:** The persistent rainfall with temperatures in the lower 70's has been ideal for sweet corn growth. Growers were more than pleased that there has been plentiful soil moisture for corn growth without having to irrigate. Christmas tree growers were spraying aphid infestations on Noble fir. Livestock producers continued to make haylage as the weather has not been conducive to conventional square bale hay. U-Pick raspberry and blueberry harvest started with good yields being reported. Greenhouse tomato growers reported slow ripening of fruit due to unseasonably cool temperatures. Despite the fact it is nearly mid-July, all vegetation remained very green with low fire danger due to the above average rainfall. Home gardeners complained about lawns growing faster than they like, due to the adequate soil moisture.

**Mason:** One and one quarter inch of rain that fell midweek ruined whatever hay had been cut. The cattle were put out on the hay to clean up the remains. Pasture regrowth should be adequate through the summer.

**Pacific:** Continued cool conditions provided growers with an opportunity to complete mid-season activities. Hay operations were complete, and small fruit producers continued harvest activities. Shellfish growers completed seed transplant operations and finished early season harvests.

**Pierce:** The unusual rain pattern delayed harvest of the first cutting of hay. The hay has become overripe and has gone to seed, thus reducing the nutritional value. Numerous farmers have tried to get their first cutting completed, but it was rained on in the windrow or was still laying in the field in the bale. Weather reports indicate a drying trend which

may allow the harvest to go forward.

**Pierce/King:** Crop conditions remained good with a little cooler weather than normal. There has been enough rain to help the crops. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Snohomish/King:** Occasional showers mid-week slowed fieldwork but kept pastures growing well. Slugs, encouraged by our continuing showers, were a huge problem for home gardeners. Blueberry harvest was underway. Local farmers have still not been able to harvest a good crop of hay. Fields were over- mature.

**Thurston:** Livestock owners continued to be more than a little frustrated with rain showers which continued to delay the hay harvest. Hayfields still waiting to be cut were beyond their prime as far as forage quality. Almost no one has been able to make conventional square bales due to the rainy conditions. Most pastures were still very green and growing, despite the fact that it is early July. Turfgrass growers tried to work soils that were too wet for replanting. At the same time, they have had a reprieve from irrigation. Blueberry and raspberry harvests were in full swing with good yields reported. Christmas tree growers began top working Noble and Shasta fir. The persistent rainfall continued to promote Noble fir growth and helped camouflage sunburn damage to foliage from the 90 degree plus temperatures in late May.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain was received during the week. The second cutting of hay was coming along fine. Haylage was curing and had a nice smell like sweet silage. Transplanted squash began late this year, but should do fine if any heat is received in August or September.

**Whatcom:** There were no unusual conditions to report. Despite the drier than normal conditions, field crops and berry fields were in excellent condition.

## Central

**Benton:** The cherry harvest was complete. Recent precipitation was helpful. Mint cutting and early peach harvest began. Weed control and apple thinning were other activities.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Showers were received over the weekend, which will slow the wheat harvest in some areas. Harvest continued in the southwest and central part of the counties, with yields above average.

**Grant:** Cherry harvesting and early apricot picking were underway. Green apple fruit thinning continued.

**Kittitas:** The first cutting of timothy hay was complete. Many fields will remain dry until the fall and winter precipitation. Some fields with a little more water will receive a second cutting. Growing conditions have been good as temperatures remained relatively mild for July.

Rangeland conditions were variable depending on the area, but overall conditions were fairly decent.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was warm, dry, and windy. Sweet corn looked good.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The counties had seven good days for fieldwork. Cherry harvest was approximately 60 percent complete. The winter wheat crop still looked good, and harvest was near in some locations. Ranchers reported pasture conditions were good but there was a shortage of water in some areas.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from four degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest began in the southern part of the county and will progress throughout the county if weather temperatures increase after the cold, damp weekend.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wheat harvest began late in the week in the earliest part of the county.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest just began in the northwest area of Garfield County. Rain late in the week stopped harvest. The rain will benefit crops in the higher elevations. Lower elevation rangeland was still in very poor condition, and higher elevations were in very good condition.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** The county received seven good days to be in the field. Temperatures were warmer than normal. Higher elevations received scattered showers. The winter wheat crop looked good as a result of earlier rains. Early cherry picking was in full swing. A few alfalfa growers were picking up the last of the crop.

**Lincoln:** Rain received in the latter part of the week delayed wheat and hay harvest, while also knocking down some of the wheat stands. Pastures benefitted from the precipitation.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat harvest was to start later in the week if hot temperatures persisted in the southwest corner of the county.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature was 84 degrees and the low was 38 degrees, with precipitation of 1.0 inches. Rain over the weekend caught numerous farmers off guard. Hay was cut and on the ground when rains hit, which may cause hay to be re-turned, causing bleaching and loss of nutrients. Other producers had hay baled in fields but not picked up. Depending on the depth the rain penetrated, there could be mold in the bales. Pastures were beginning to grow quickly due to the precipitation.

**Stevens:** A break in the rainy weather allowed producers to put up most of the first cutting of hay. Heavy rain over the weekend put a halt to haying in the northern part of the county. Pastures continued to hold up well. Hay yields were above average.

**Walla Walla:** Some area growers were beginning harvest and some growers began the previous week. Yields were average so far. Rain showers on Saturday resulted in .10 to .45 inches of precipitation.

**Whitman:** Harvest of the 2005 winter wheat crop began in the far west areas of the county. More and more operations will be harvesting soon. Temperatures have been seasonal and precipitation normal. Crops were turning in the summer weather.

## Weekly Weather Statistics

July 11, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	46	70	60	-2	75	-5	7	-9	0.58	0.24	5	37.24	3.21	109	151
Everett	51	73	61	-2	78	-6	10	-11	0.27	-0.04	3	26.14	-8.25	76	148
Hoquiam	49	66	59	-1	67	-3	3	-4	1.46	1.14	5	55.50	-10.00	85	178
Kelso	50	81	64	1	97	6	30	3	0.61	0.36	3	28.04	-16.11	64	122
Olympia	45	81	61	-2	77	-7	13	-8	0.82	0.61	4	39.12	-9.89	80	153
Sea-Tac	53	79	62	-3	88	-13	20	-14	0.76	0.55	3	31.19	-4.55	87	133
Shelton	50	79	61	-4	78	-20	13	-19	1.08	0.83	3	53.21	-10.13	84	147
Tacoma	46	79	62	-3	83	-15	16	-12	0.44	0.21	3	26.74	-11.20	70	121
Vancouver	55	84	66	3	117	19	47	18	0.28	0.07	4	29.10	-10.63	73	147
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	51	93	70	4	139	19	69	17	0.01	-0.06	1	6.70	-1.72	80	80
Stampede Pass	45	73	56	3	44	10	4	3	1.23	0.85	4	60.15	-18.38	77	169
Wenatchee	54	93	71	-1	152	-4	82	-4	0.00	-0.07	0	5.16	-2.60	66	59
Yakima AP	49	94	69	0	136	3	66	3	0.00	-0.07	0	5.70	-1.83	76	75
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	47	92	67	3	125	16	55	13	0.45	0.24	2	20.76	1.25	106	104
Deer Park	41	86	63	-6	90	-33	23	-33	1.18	0.97	2	20.62	3.46	120	116
Spokane AP	53	88	67	-1	121	-2	51	-4	0.93	0.77	2	14.15	-1.24	92	96
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	52	93	71	-4	147	-19	77	-19	0.12	0.05	1	5.98	-0.79	88	59
Moses Lake	50	94	71	-4	147	-19	77	-19	0.25	0.18	1	6.17	-0.60	91	57
Quincy	51	91	69	-2	136	-4	66	-4	0.04	-0.03	1	5.39	-1.84	75	51
Ritzville	45	93	68	0	126	2	56	-2	0.30	0.17	2	8.99	-1.72	84	66
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	55	99	74	-3	172	-13	102	-13	0.00	-0.04	0	3.37	-2.56	57	44
Pasco	50	99	74	-1	167	1	97	1	0.25	0.21	1	5.32	-1.71	76	60
Pullman	43	87	65	2	107	8	37	2	0.15	-0.06	1	5.95	-13.87	30	67
Whitman Miss.	46	94	72	3	156	15	86	15	0.14	0.01	2	10.16	-2.66	79	98
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D' A' AP	46	88	65	-3	109	-16	39	-19	0.56	0.32	2	11.41	-12.75	47	82
Lewiston ID	56	96	74	2	170	10	100	9	0.26	0.10	2	11.47	0.23	102	92

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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